

Getting around the Island



Steam Railway



Cregneash

Go Explore

The Isle of Man is just 33 miles long by 13.5 miles wide which means nothing is too far away so you can see and do a lot in a short space of time.

The Island offers the advantage of an extensive and unique public transport network – including buses, steam trains, electric trams and horse trams so groups travelling without their own transport are well catered for.

Groups will be surprised by how easy it is to explore the Island's 221 square miles either by coach, scheduled or private hire bus service, on foot, or aboard the Victorian steam and electric railways.

“Travelling around the Island was a piece of cake with my Go Explore Heritage Card”

The best way to make travel seamless and cost effective is to buy a Go Explore card. The card entitles the holder to unlimited travel on our scheduled bus, heritage rail (including Groudle Glen and Laxey Mines Railway) and Horse Tram services for 1, 3, 5 or 7 consecutive days.

To make things even easier we offer a 5 day Go Explore Heritage card which includes unlimited travel plus admission to all Manx National Heritage attractions and the Milntown Estate Gardens.

Find out more - call Isle of Man Transport before your group visits on **+44(0)1624 697400**. We can discuss the most cost effective way to get around the Island and offer discounts for groups of 20 or more.



Bus Vannin

Operates a comprehensive state of the art bus service which serves the whole Island on a regular basis. This includes Ronaldsway Airport and the Sea Terminal. Late night services also run on weekends. All buses are equipped with low access ramps, extra large windows and free WiFi. Transfers, half and full day hires available at competitive rates.

Railways

The Isle of Man boasts six heritage railways - Steam Railway, Manx Electric Railway, the Snaefell Mountain Railway, Laxey Mine Railway, Douglas Bay Horse Tramway and the Groudle Glen Railway.

Getting around the Island

Isle of Man Steam Train March - November

Step back in time for a journey your clients will never forget, experience the grandeur of travelling between Douglas and the south of the Island on a Victorian railway, perfectly frozen in time.

Customers can sit back, relax and enjoy a journey through the beautiful Manx countryside thanks to Victorian engineering that has well and truly stood the test of time.

Opened in 1874, this narrow gauge railway still runs with its original locomotives and carriages, through an ever changing landscape, to a choice of destinations in the south of the Island, these include the ancient monastery of Rushen Abbey, the impressive Castle Rushen, the Old House of Keys and the Nautical Museum all within the ancient capital Castletown and within walking distance of the town's station. Further down the line there are a number of sheltered, sandy beaches, and the IoM Steam Railway Museum at Port Erin.

A one way journey through the beautiful Manx countryside, on a track running the full length of Douglas to Port Erin, takes an hour to complete. In July and August, the peak months of the holiday season, there are up to seven return trains a day one of which is an evening service.

The Steam Railway is a truly unique railway, allowing you to travel around the south with ease. The railway has been granted a new lease of life and is enjoying all the benefits of the largest reinvestment in renewal, improvement and maintenance since it was built. Like the landscape the steam trains have preserved their identity in an ever changing world.

Additional information: Coach drop off points at Douglas and Castletown railway stations, onsite coach parking available at Port Erin railway station, disabled access is available on board by pre-booking, onsite café available at Douglas and Port Erin railway stations, onsite gift shop at Douglas, Castletown & Port Erin railway stations. Pre-booking is recommended.

Dining with a Difference

"The Dining Car was the highlight of my trip"

Pullman style fine dining can be experienced in the Steam Railway's beautifully restored Dining Car.

Built in 1905 and restored in the Spring of 2013, the plush Dining Car is one of only a handful of fine dining narrow gauge dining cars in the world.

Offering a mouth-watering menu using only the finest Manx produce, the Dining Car is fully licensed and has a carefully crafted list of 14 wines and a Cocktail Bar Car. With capacity of up to 88 people the dining car offers a variety of events to cover a wide range of budgets from our Pie & Mash nights to exquisite gourmet dinners. The Dining Car is also available for private hire.

Visit www.rail.im to see a full list of scheduled dining events, or email hireme@gov.im to discuss any bespoke requirements for your group.



Getting around the Island



Manx Electric Railway March - November

Take an unforgettable journey along the east coast on this unique Island railway which dates back over 100 years.

The Manx Electric Railway was built between 1893 and 1899 and connects the Island's capital, Douglas, with Laxey in the east and Ramsey in the north. The 17.5 mile railway journey takes 75 minutes and will take you along some of the most scenic stretches of railway in the British Isles.

On one side you'll experience the beautiful Manx countryside, glens and picturesque villages and to the other you'll have far reaching views out to sea.

There are currently 48 official stations and stops on the line. Maximum group size: 76 people per tram (multiple trams available).

Average length of visit: 1 hour.

Passengers can alight at Laxey in order to board the Snaefell Mountain Railway.

Additional information: Coach drop off points at Derby Castle, Laxey and Ramsey railway stations, onsite coach parking available at Laxey station. Disabled access available on board by pre-booking, onsite café at Laxey and Dhoon railway stations. Pre-booking recommended.

Getting around the Island



Snafell Mountain Railway March - November

Dating from 1895, Laxey is the starting point for the Snafell Mountain Railway, a unique Victorian enterprise which winds its way up 2,000 feet to the top of Snafell. Snafell is the Island's only mountain, its summit 2036 feet (621 metres) above sea level. The name Snafell, or Sniaull in Manx, comes from the Norse for Snow Mountain.

On your journey up the mountain there are spectacular views on a clear day. It's the only place in the British Isles where you can see seven kingdoms - England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Heaven, Mann and the Sea - just by turning around.

A range of special dining events offer stunning views at the Snafell summit café, from Sunset Dinners to Pie in the Sky, the latter featuring stargazing and supper with the Island's Astronomical Society. All welcome group and private bookings.

Visit www.rail.im to see a full list of scheduled dining events, or email hireme@gov.im to discuss any bespoke requirements for your group.



Getting around the Island



Douglas Bay Horse Tram March - November

The horse trams are an iconic part of the Isle of Man. Started in 1876 by Thomas Lightfoot to take advantage of the booming tourist trade, the 3ft gauge horse tramway runs from the main depot at Derby Castle, along the Promenade passing a large proportion of the Island's hotels to the Sea Terminal.

Many of the original fleet of cars are still in use today, and it is a popular tourist attraction. It is the oldest surviving Horse Tramway in Britain, and the only one to have operated continuously since its opening (with the exception of World War II).

Group visits welcome by prior arrangement, please email hireme@gov.im for more information.

NB: During the 2020 Season regeneration works are being carried out along Douglas Promenade which means the Horse Trams will run a limited service. Please visit www.rail.im for updates on the service.



Events and Private Hire

During the year Isle of Man transport offer an array of exciting events, from a 1940's day on the Steam Railway, to learning how to drive a Manx Electric Tram as part of the annual famous Transport Festival.

Look out for information on our upcoming celebrations in July to acknowledge the 125th Anniversary of the Snaefell Mountain Railway.

Many of the events are free to attend and all information can be found on the website: **www.rail.im**

Alternatively, Bus Vannin, Heritage Rail and Douglas Bay Horse Tram offer a private bespoke hire service from vintage or state of the art modern double and single decker buses to steam trains.

Isle of Man transport have a dedicated team to ensure all your requirements are met and in the most cost effective way. Please contact **hireme@gov.im** or call **+44 (0) 1624 697400**.

For more information on any of your transport needs please contact Transport Headquarters on **+44 (0) 1624 697400** or email **publictransport@gov.im**

Other Transport Attractions

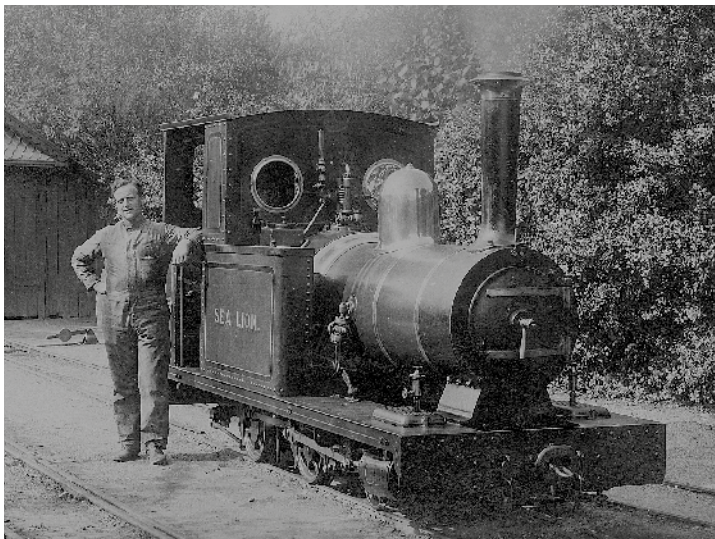
Groudle Glen Railway

Owned and operated entirely by volunteers, this two-foot gauge railway has been fully restored and now runs between the Groudle Glen and the Sea Lion Rocks – it's the line that goes uphill to the sea! The railway operates steam, diesel and electric engines plus the original 1896 locomotive Sea Lion.

Open: May to September
Maximum group size: 150 people

Average length of visit: 1 hour
Tel **+44 (0) 1624 670543**
Email **ggr@ggr.co.uk**
www.ggr.org.uk

Additional information:
Coach drop off point, onsite café, onsite gift shop, pre-booking required.



Great Laxey Mine Railway

Find out more about the Island's mining history by riding in tiny carriages along the line which used to carry lead and zinc ores from deep inside the Great Laxey Mine. En route you'll pass beneath the main Laxey to Ramsey road and through the longest railway tunnel on the Island.

Open: March to September

Average length of visit: 30 minutes
Tel **+44 (0) 1624 862007**
Email **minerailway@manx.net**
www.laxeyminerailway.im

Additional information:
Nearby coach parking and gift shop.

